



NEWS

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Air District Collects \$90,000 in Penalties Martinez Refining Settles 44 Violation Notices

In a settlement agreement, the Air District has collected \$90,000 in penalties from the Martinez Refining Company (formerly Shell), a Division of Equilon Enterprises, on 44 violation notices for infractions of Air District rules and regulations.

The majority of the violations were for leaking connectors within a sulfur recovery unit. The excess emissions from these leaks are directly related to ozone formation in the Bay Area and beyond. Other rule infractions included seven instances of excess sulfur dioxide emissions and one public nuisance violation for odor. The violations settled in this agreement occurred between late 1998 and March 2000.

"The Air District's revised penalty structure looks at the history and type of violation. Recurring violations escalate the amount of the penalty. It is our intention to use this escalating penalty structure to deter future infractions," stated Air District Executive Officer Ellen Garvey.

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